

Question 14 – Week of October 4

Historically, what did “sprue” in celiac sprue refer to?

- A. Villous atrophy
- B. Aphthous disease
- C. Scalloping
- D. Lymphocytosis

Answer: B

Celiac sprue first was recognized as a clinical entity by Aretaeus the Cappadocian in the 1st century ad. The name *sprue* is from the 18th century and is derived from the Dutch word *spruw* for aphthous disease, emphasizing to the high prevalence of aphthous mouth ulcers in patients with celiac sprue.

Reference:

Feldman: Sleisenger & Fordtran's Gastrointestinal and Liver Disease, 8th ed.